

CURRENT STATUS OF THE PENDING CLAIMS

The following is a complete set of unamended pending claims:

1-86. (previously canceled).

COUNT 1 - (Product –Prepaints and Paint Composition)

87. (previously presented) A set of different, but mutually compatible fluid prepaints, sufficient to form at least one paint line, which set comprises:

- (i.) at least one opacifying prepaint comprising at least one opacifying pigment;
- (ii.) at least one extender prepaint comprising at least one extender pigment; and
- (iii.) at least one binder prepaint comprising at least one latex polymeric binder.

88. (previously presented) A set of different, but mutually compatible aqueous prepaint compositions, sufficient to form at least one set of paint products, which set comprises:

- (i.) at least one pigment prepaint composition comprising at least one opacifying pigment;
- (ii.) at least one extender prepaint composition comprising at least one extender agent; and
- (iii) at least one binder prepaint composition comprising at least one polymeric binder.

89. (previously presented) A plurality of varied, but compatible premixed aqueous compositions, sufficient to form a variety of paint compositions, which plurality comprises:

- (i) at least one premixed pigment composition provided as an aqueous solution comprising an opacifying pigment;
- (ii) at least one premixed low resin composition provided as an aqueous solution comprising a flattening agent; and
- (iii) at least one premixed a high resin composition provided as an aqueous solution comprising a resinous binder.

90. (previously presented) The set of prepaints of claim 87, wherein the number of prepaints is 3 or more.

91. (previously presented) The set of aqueous prepaint compositions of claim 88, wherein the number of prepaint compositions is 3 or more.

92. (previously presented) The plurality of premixed aqueous compositions of claim 89, wherein the number of premixed compositions is 3 or more.

93. (previously presented) The set of prepaints of claim 87, wherein the opacifying prepaint further comprises at least one particulate polymeric binder adsorbed onto the opacifying pigment.

94. (previously presented) The set of aqueous prepaint compositions of claim 88, wherein the at least one pigment prepaint composition further comprises at least one particulate polymeric binder adsorbed onto the opacifying pigment.

95. (previously presented) The plurality of premixed aqueous compositions of claim 89, wherein the premixed pigment composition further comprises at least one particulate resinous binder adsorbed onto the opacifying pigment.

96. (previously presented) The set of prepaints of claim 87, wherein the extender prepaint further comprises at least one particulate polymeric binder absorbed onto the extender pigment.

97. (previously presented) The set of aqueous prepaint compositions of claim 88, wherein the at least one extender prepaint composition further comprises at least one particulate polymeric binder absorbed onto the extender agent.

98. (previously presented) The plurality of premixed aqueous compositions of claim 89, wherein the premixed low resin composition further comprises at least one particulate resinous binder absorbed onto the flattening agent.

99. (previously presented) The set of prepaints of claim 87, wherein the extender prepaint has a PVC of about 35% to about 100%.

100. (previously presented) The set of aqueous prepaint compositions of claim 88, wherein the extender composition has a PVC of about 35% to about 100%.

101. (previously presented) The plurality of premixed aqueous compositions of claim 89, wherein the premixed low resin composition has a PVC of about 35% to about 100%

102. (previously presented) A paint line produced by a process which comprises the steps of:

- (a.) providing a set of different, but mutually compatible, fluid prepaints, which set comprises:
 - (i.) at least one opacifying prepaint comprising at least one opacifying pigment,
 - (ii.) at least one extender prepaint comprising at least one extender pigment, and
 - (iii.) at least one binder prepaint comprising at least one latex polymeric binder;and
- (b.) dispensing a predetermined amount of each of the prepaints into containers to form the paint line.

103. (previously presented) A paint line produced by a process which comprises the steps of:

- (a) providing a set of different, but mutually compatible, prepaints compositions, which set comprises:
 - (i) at least one pigment prepaint composition as an aqueous solution comprising an opacifying pigment;
 - (ii) at least one low resin prepaint composition as an aqueous solution comprising a extender agent; and
 - (iii) at least one high resin prepaint composition as an aqueous solution comprising a polymeric binder; and
- (b) dispensing a predetermined amount of each of the prepaint compositions into containers to form an aqueous paint composition of the paint line.

104. (previously presented) A plurality of aqueous paint products produced by a process which comprises the steps of :

- (a) providing a plurality of varied, but compatible premixed pigment compositions as an aqueous solution, which plurality of compositions comprises;
 - (i) at least one premixed pigment composition as an aqueous solution comprising an opacifying pigment;
 - (ii) at least one premixed a low resin composition as an aqueous solution comprising a flattening agent;
 - (iii) at least one premixed high resin composition as an aqueous solution comprising a resinous binder; and
- (b) dispensing a predetermined amount of each of the premixed compositions into containers to form an aqueous paint product of the plurality of paint products.

105. (previously presented) A set of different, but mutually compatible, fluid prepaints sufficient to formulate at least one paint line useful for forming pigmented and clear coatings, which set comprises:

- (i) at least one prepaint comprising at least one opacifying pigment; and
- (ii) at least two prepaints each of which comprises at least one latex polymeric binder.

106. (previously presented) An plurality of different, but compatible fluid prepaint compositions sufficient to formulate a plurality of aqueous paint compositions useful for forming pigmented and clear coatings, which plurality of prepaint compositions comprising:

- (i) at least one prepaint composition comprising an opacifying pigment; and
- (ii) at least two prepaint compositions each of which comprises at least one polymeric binder.

107. (previously presented) A plurality of different but compatible aqueous premixed compositions sufficient to formulate a plurality of paint products useful for forming pigmented coatings, which plurality of premixed compositions comprising:

- (i) at least one premixed composition as an aqueous solution having an opacifying pigment;
- (ii) at least two premixed compositions as aqueous solutions each of which comprises at least one resin containing binder.

108. (previously presented) A method of forming at least one paint line, which method comprises the steps of:

- (a) providing the set of prepaints of claim 105; and
- (b) dispensing a predetermined amount of each of the prepaints into containers or applicators to form the paint line.

109. (previously presented) A method of forming a plurality of aqueous paint compositions, which method comprises the steps of:

- (a) providing a plurality of the prepaint compositions of claim 106; and
- (b) dispensing a predetermined amount of each of the prepaint compositions into containers to form the plurality of paint compositions.

110. (previously presented) A method of forming a plurality of paint products, which method comprises the steps of:

- (a) providing a plurality of the premixed compositions of claim 107; and
- (b) dispensing a predetermined amount of each of the premixed compositions into containers to form the plurality of paint products.

COUNT 2 (Method of Producing a Paint Line)

111. (previously presented) A method of forming at least one paint line, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a set of different, but mutually compatible, fluid prepaints, comprising:
 - (i) at least one opacifying prepaint, comprising at least one opacifying pigment;
 - (ii) at least one extender prepaint comprising at least one extender pigment; and
 - (iii) at least one binder prepaint comprising at least one latex polymeric binder; and
- (b) dispensing a predetermined amount of each of the prepaints into containers or applicator(s) to form the paint line.

112. (previously presented) A method of forming a plurality of paint products, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a set of varied, but mutually compatible aqueous prepaint compositions, comprising:
 - (i) at least one pigment prepaint composition comprising an opacifying pigment;
 - (ii) at least one extender prepaint composition comprising an extender agent; and
 - (iii) at least one, binder prepaint composition comprising a polymeric binder; and
- (b) dispensing a predetermined amount of each of the prepaint compositions into containers to form the plurality of paint products.

113. (previously presented) A method of forming a plurality of paint products comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a plurality of varied, but compatible premixed aqueous compositions comprising:
 - (i) at least one premixed pigment composition comprising an opacifying pigment;
 - (ii) at least one premixed low resin composition comprising a flattening agent;
 - (iii) at least one premixed high resin composition comprising a resin containing binder; and
- (b) dispensing a predetermined amount of each of the premixed compositions into containers to form the plurality of paint products.

114. (previously presented) The method of claim 111, further comprising the step of mixing the prepaint before, while, or after they are dispensed into the containers.

115. (previously presented) The method of claim 112, further comprising the step of mixing the prepaint compositions before, while, or after they are dispensed into the containers.

116. (previously presented) The method of claim 113, further comprising the step of mixing the premixed compositions before, while, or after they are dispensed into the containers.

117. (previously presented) The method of claim 111, further comprising the step of mixing the prepaint before or while they are dispensed into the applicator(s).

118. (previously presented) The method of claim 112, further comprising the step of mixing the prepaint compositions before or while they are dispensed into the containers.

119. (previously presented) The method of claim 113, further comprising the step of mixing the premixed compositions before or while they are dispensed into the containers.

120. (previously presented) The method of claim 111, further comprising the step of adjusting the viscosity of the prepaints before, while, or after they are dispensed into the containers.

121. (previously presented) The method of claim 112, further comprising the step of adjusting the viscosity of the prepaint compositions before, while, or after they are dispensed into the containers.

122. (previously presented) The method of claim 113, further comprising the step of adjusting the viscosity of the premixed compositions before, while, or after they are dispensed into the containers.

123. (previously presented) The method of claim 111, further comprising the step of adjusting the viscosity of the dispensed prepaints before or while they are dispensed into the applicator(s).

124. (previously presented) The method of claim 112, further comprising the step of adjusting the viscosity of the prepaint compositions before or while they are dispensed into the containers.

125. (previously presented) The method of claim 113, further comprising the step of adjusting the viscosity of the premixed compositions before or while they are dispensed into the containers.

126. (previously presented) The method of claim 111, further comprising the step of adding at least one additive that enhances application or final performance of the paint.

127. (previously presented) The method of claim 112, further comprising the step of adding at least one additive that enhances application or final performance of the paint products.

128. (previously presented) The method of claim 113, further comprising the step of adding at least one additive that enhances application or final performance of the paint products.

129. (previously presented) The method of claim 126, wherein the additive is a thickener.

130. (previously presented) The method of claim 127, wherein the additive is a thickener.

131. (previously presented) The method of claim 128, wherein the additive is a thickener.

132. (previously presented) The method of claim 111, further comprising the step of adding at least one colorant to the prepaints.

133. (previously presented) The method of claim 112, further comprising the step of adding at least one colorant to the prepaint compositions.

134. The method of claim 113, further comprising the step of adding at least one colorant to the premixed compositions.

135. (previously presented) The method of claim 111, wherein the opacifying prepaint further comprises at least one particulate polymeric binder absorbed onto the opacifying pigment.

136. (previously presented) The method of claim 112, wherein the pigment composition further comprises at least one particulate polymeric agent absorbed onto the opacifying pigment.

137. (previously presented) The method of claim 113, wherein the pigment composition further comprises at least one particulate resin absorbed onto the opacifying pigment.

138. (previously presented) The method of claim 111, wherein the extender prepaint further comprises at least one particulate polymeric binder absorbed onto the extender pigment.

139. (previously presented) The method of claim 112, wherein the extender prepaint composition further comprises at least one particulate polymeric resin absorbed onto the extender agent.

140. (previously presented) The method of claim 113, wherein the low resin composition further comprises at least one particulate resin binder absorbed onto the flattening agent.

141. (previously presented) The method of claim 111, wherein the method is carried out at a paint manufacturing facility.

142. (previously presented) The method of claim 112, wherein the method is carried out at a paint manufacturing facility.

143. (previously presented) The method of claim 113, wherein the method is carried out at a paint manufacturing facility.

144. (previously presented) The method of claim 111, wherein the number of prepaints is 4 or more.

145. (previously presented) The method of claim 112, wherein the number of prepaint compositions is 4 or more.
146. (previously presented) The method of claim 113, wherein the number of premixed compositions is 4 or more.
147. (previously presented) The method of forming at least one paint line of claim 111 wherein the extender prepaint has a PVC of about 35% to about 100%.
148. (previously presented) The method of forming a plurality of paint products claim 112, wherein the extender prepaint composition has a PVC of about 35% to about 100%.
149. (previously presented) The method of forming a plurality of paint products claim 113, wherein the low resin composition has a PVC of about 35% to about 100%.
150. (previously presented) The method of claim 111, wherein the method is carried out at the point-of-sale.
151. (previously presented) The method of claim 112, wherein the method is carried out at the point-of-sale.
152. (previously presented) The method of claim 113, wherein the method is carried out at the point-of-sale.
153. (previously presented) The method of claim 111, wherein the method is carried out at the point-of-use.
154. (previously presented) The method of claim 112, wherein the method is carried out at the point-of-use.
155. (previously presented) The method of claim 113, wherein the method is carried out at the point-of-use.

156. (previously presented) The method of claim 111, wherein the method is controlled by a computer.

157. (previously presented) The method of claim 112, wherein the method is controlled by a computer.

158. (previously presented) The method of claim 113, wherein the method is controlled by a computer.

159. (previously presented) A method of forming a range of paints, the range comprising at least two paint lines, which method comprises the steps of:

- (a) providing a set of different, but mutually compatible, fluid prepaints sufficient to formulate at least two paint lines, which set comprises:
 - (i) at least one opacifying prepaint, comprising at least one opacifying pigment;
 - (ii) at least one extender prepaint comprising at least one extender pigment;
 - (iii) at least one binder prepaint comprising at least one latex polymeric binder; and
 - (iv) at least one additional, different opacifying, extender, or binder prepaint selected from the group consisting of (i), (ii), and (iii); and
- (b) dispensing a predetermined amount of each of the prepaints into containers or applicator(s) to form the range of paints.

160. (previously presented) A method of forming a range of paint products, the range comprising variations in at least two of the paint products:

- (a) providing a set of varied, but mutually compatible, aqueous prepaint compositions sufficient to formulate the at least two varied paint products, which set comprises:
 - (i) at least one pigment prepaint composition comprising an opacifying pigment;
 - (ii) at least one extender prepaint composition comprising an extender agent;
 - (iii) at least one, binder prepaint composition comprising a polymeric binder; and
 - (iv) at least one additional, different opacifying, extender, or binder prepaint composition selected from the group consisting of (i), (ii), and (iii); and
- (b) dispensing a predetermined amount of each of the prepaint compositions into containers to form the at least two of paint products.

161. (previously presented) A method of forming a range of paint products, the range comprising variations in the plurality of the paint products:

- (a) providing a plurality of varied, but compatible premixed aqueous compositions sufficient to formulate the at plurality of varied paint products, which plurality comprises:
 - (i) at least one premixed pigment composition comprising an opacifying pigment;
 - (ii) at least one premixed low resin composition comprising a flattening agent;
 - (iii) at least one premixed high resin composition comprising a resin containing binder; and
 - (iv) at least one additional, different premixed pigment, low resin, or high resin composition selected from the group consisting of (i), (ii), and (iii); and
- (b) dispensing a predetermined amount of each of the premixed compositions into containers to form the plurality of paint products.

162. (previously presented) The method of claim 159, further comprising the step of mixing the prepaint before, while, or after they are dispensed into the containers.

163. (previously presented) The method of claim 160, further comprising the step of mixing the prepaint compositions before, while, or after they are dispensed into the containers.

164. (previously presented) The method of claim 161, further comprising the step of mixing the premixed compositions before, while, or after they are dispensed into the containers.

165. (previously presented) The method of claim 159, further comprising the step of mixing the prepaint before or while they are dispensed into the applicator(s).

166. (previously presented) The method of claim 160, further comprising the step of mixing the prepaint compositions before or while they are dispensed into the containers.

167. (previously presented) The method of claim 161, further comprising the step of mixing the premixed compositions before or while they are dispensed into the containers.

168. (previously presented) The method of claim 159, further comprising the step of adjusting the viscosity of the prepaints before, while, or after they are dispensed into the containers.

169. (previously presented) The method of claim 160, further comprising the step of adjusting the viscosity of the prepaint compositions before, while, or after they are dispensed into the containers.

170. (previously presented) The method of claim 161, further comprising the step of adjusting the viscosity of the premixed compositions before, while, or after they are dispensed into the containers.

171. (previously presented) The method of claim 159, further comprising the step of adjusting the viscosity of the dispensed prepaints before or while they are dispensed into the applicator(s).

172. (previously presented) The method of claim 160, further comprising the step of adjusting the viscosity of the prepaint compositions before or while they are dispensed into the containers.

173. (previously presented) The method of claim 161, further comprising the step of adjusting the viscosity of the premixed compositions before or while they are dispensed into the containers.

174. (previously presented) The method of claim 159, further comprising the step of adding at least one additive that enhances application or final performance of the paint.

175. (previously presented) The method of claim 160, further comprising the step of adding at least one additive that enhances application or final performance of the paint products.

176. (previously presented) The method of claim 161, further comprising the step of adding at least one additive that enhances application or final performance of the paint products.

177. (previously presented) The method of claim 174, wherein the additive is a thickener.

178. (previously presented) The method of claim 175, wherein the additive is a thickener.

179. (previously presented) The method of claim 176, wherein the additive is a thickener.

180. (previously presented) The method of claim 159, further comprising the step of adding at least one colorant to the prepaints.

181. (previously presented) The method of claim 160, further comprising the step of adding at least one colorant to the prepaint compositions.

182. (previously presented) The method of claim 161, further comprising the step of adding at least one colorant to the premixed compositions.

183. (previously presented) The method of claim 159, wherein the opacifying prepaint further comprises at least one particulate polymeric binder absorbed onto the opacifying pigment.

184. (previously presented) The method of claim 160, wherein the pigment composition further comprises at least one particulate polymeric agent absorbed onto the opacifying pigment.

185. (previously presented) The method of claim 161, wherein the pigment composition further comprises at least one particulate resin absorbed onto the opacifying pigment.

186. (previously presented) The method of claim 159, wherein the extender prepaint further comprises at least one particulate polymeric binder absorbed onto the extender pigment.

187. (previously presented) The method of claim 160, wherein the extender prepaint composition further comprises at least one particulate polymeric resin absorbed onto the extender agent.

188. (previously presented) The method of claim 161, wherein the low resin composition further comprises at least one particulate resin binder absorbed onto the flattening agent.

189. (previously presented) The method of claim 159, wherein the method is carried out at a paint manufacturing facility.

190. (previously presented) The method of claim 160, wherein the method is carried out at a paint manufacturing facility.

191. (previously presented) The method of claim 161, wherein the method is carried out at a paint manufacturing facility.

192. (previously presented) The method of claim 159, wherein the number of prepaints is 4 or more.

193. (previously presented) The method of claim 160, wherein the number of prepaint compositions is 4 or more.

194. (previously presented) The method of claim 161, wherein the number of premixed compositions is 4 or more.

195. (previously presented) The method of forming at least one paint line of claim 159 wherein the extender prepaint has a PVC of about 35% to about 100%.

196. (previously presented) The method of forming a plurality of paint products claim 160, wherein the extender prepaint composition has a PVC of about 35% to about 100%.

197. (previously presented) The method of forming a plurality of paint products claim 161, wherein the low resin composition has a PVC of about 35% to about 100%.

198. (previously presented) The method of claim 159, wherein the method is carried out at the point-of-sale.

199. (previously presented) The method of claim 160, wherein the method is carried out at the point-of-sale.

200. (previously presented) The method of claim 161, wherein the method is carried out at the point-of-sale.

201. (previously presented) The method of claim 159, wherein the method is carried out at the point-of-use.

202. (previously presented) The method of claim 160, wherein the method is carried out at the point-of-use.

203. (previously presented) The method of claim 161, wherein the method is carried out at the point-of-use.

204. (previously presented) The method of claim 159, wherein the method is controlled by a computer.

205. (previously presented) The method of claim 160, wherein the method is controlled by a computer.

206. (previously presented) The method of claim 161, wherein the method is controlled by a computer.

COUNT 3 (A Pigmented Prepaint Composition)

207. (previously presented) A fluid opacifying prepaint useful for formulating a one pack, pigmented latex paint having a volume solids content of about 30% to about 70% and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU, which prepaint contains other paint ingredients, which prepaint consists essentially of:

- (i) at least one opacifying pigment,
- (ii) at least one dispersant,
- (iii) at least one thickener, and
- (iv) water;

wherein the dispersant(s) and the thickener(s) are mutually compatible with the pigment(s) and with the other paint ingredients.

208. (previously presented) A premixed aqueous pigment composition useful for formulating a one pack, pigmented aqueous paint composition having a volume solids content of about 30% to about 70% and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU, which premixed composition contains other paint ingredients, which premixed aqueous composition consists essentially of:

- (i) at least one opacifying pigment,
- (ii) at least one dispersant,
- (iii) at least one thickener, and
- (iv) water;

wherein the dispersant(s) and the thickener(s) are mutually compatible with the pigment(s) and with the other paint composition ingredients.

209. (previously presented) The prepaint of claim 207, wherein the volume solids content is about 35% to about 50% and the Stormer viscosity is about 60 to about 150 KU.

210. (previously presented) The premixed aqueous pigment composition of claim 208, wherein the volume solids content is about 35% to about 50% and the Stormer viscosity is about 60 to about 150 KU.

211. (previously presented) The prepaint of claim 207, wherein the opacifying pigment comprises titanium dioxide.

212. (previously presented) The premixed aqueous pigment composition of claim 208, wherein the opacifying pigment comprises titanium dioxide.

213. (previously presented) The prepaint of claim 207, wherein the dispersant comprises potassium tripolyphosphate.

214. (previously presented) The premixed aqueous pigment composition of claim 208, wherein the dispersant comprises potassium tripolyphosphate.

215. (previously presented) The prepaint of claim 207, wherein the thickener comprises a cellulosic.

216. (previously presented) The premixed aqueous pigment composition of claim 208, wherein the thickener is a cellulosic.

217. (previously presented) The prepaint of claim 207, further consisting essentially of at least one additive comprising a coalescent, with the additive being present in an amount of less than about 10% by weight, based on the total weight of the prepaint.

218. (previously presented) The premixed aqueous pigment composition of claim 208, further consisting essentially of at least one additive comprising a coalescent, with the additive being present in an amount of less than about 10% by weight, based on the total weight of the premixed aqueous pigment composition.

219. (previously presented) A set of two different, but mutually compatible fluid prepaints useful for formulating a latex paint, which set comprises:

- (a) the opacifying prepaint of claim 207; and

- (b) a latex polymeric binder prepaint having volume solids content of about 25% to about 70% or a Brookfield viscosity of less than about 100,000 centipoise at a shear rate of 1.25 reciprocal seconds, which prepaint consists essentially of a water-borne latex polymeric binder having a Tg of about -430 degrees C. to about 70 degrees C. and water;

wherein the prepaint ingredients are mutually compatible with each other and with the ingredients of the other prepaint in the set.

220. (previously presented) A set of two different, but mutually compatible premixed aqueous compositions useful for formulating an aqueous paint composition, which set comprises:

- (a) the premixed aqueous pigment composition of claim 208; and
- (b) a premixed polymeric binder composition having volume solids content of about 25% to about 70% or a Brookfield viscosity of less than about 100,000 centipoise at a shear rate of 1.25 reciprocal seconds, which binder composition consists essentially of a water-borne resin containing binder having a Tg of about -430 degrees C. to about 70 degrees C. and water;

wherein the ingredients of the premixed compositions are mutually compatible with each other and with the ingredients of the other premixed compositions in the set.

221. (previously presented) The set of prepaints of claim 219, wherein the binder prepaint has a volume solids content of about 30 to about 65% and a Brookfield viscosity of about 100 to about 50,000 centipoise at a shear rate of 1.25 reciprocal seconds, and consists essentially of a water-borne polymeric binder having a Tg of about -10 to about 60 degrees C.

222. (previously presented) The set of premixed aqueous compositions of claim 220, wherein the premixed binder composition has a volume solids content of about 30 to about 65% and a Brookfield viscosity of about 100 to about 50,000 centipoise at a shear rate of 1.25 reciprocal seconds, and consists essentially of a water-borne resin containing binder having a Tg of about -10 to about 60 degrees C.

223. (previously presented) The set of prepaints of claim 219, wherein the binder prepaint further consists essentially of at least one additive comprising a coalescent, the additive being

present in an amount of less than about 10% by weight, based on the total weight of the binder prepaint.

224. (previously presented) The set of premixed aqueous compositions of claim 220, wherein the premixed binder composition further consists essentially of at least one additive comprising a coalescent, the additive being present in an amount of less than about 10% by weight, based on the total weight of the premixed binder composition.

225. (previously presented) A set of three different, but mutually compatible, fluid prepaints, useful for formulating a latex paint, which set comprises:

- (a) the set of prepaints of claim 219; and
- (b) a fluid pigment extender prepaint which consists essentially of:
 - (i) at least one mineral extender,
 - (ii) at least one thickener,
 - (iii) water, and
 - (iv) optionally a polymeric binder;

wherein the binder prepaint has a volume solids content of about 30% to about 70%, a PVC of about 35% to about 100%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU.

226. (previously presented) A set of three different, but mutually compatible, premixed aqueous compositions, useful for formulating a paint product, which set comprises:

- (a) the set of premixed compositions of claim 220; and
- (b) a premixed aqueous pigment extender composition which consists essentially of:
 - (i) at least calcined clay,
 - (ii) at least one thickener,
 - (iii) water, and
 - (iv) optionally a resin containing binder;

wherein the premixed binder composition has a volume solids content of about 30% to about 70%, a PVC of about 35% to about 100%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU.

227. (previously presented) The set of prepaints of claim 225, wherein the extender prepaint has a volume solids content of about 35% to about 65%, a PVC of about 40% to about 100% and a Stormer viscosity of about 60 to about 150 KU.

228. (previously presented) The set of premixed aqueous compositions of claim 226, wherein the premixed aqueous extender composition has a volume solids content of about 35% to about 65%, a PVC of about 40% to about 100% and a Stormer viscosity of about 60 to about 150 KU.

229. (previously presented) The set of prepaints of claim 219, wherein the binder prepaint further consists essentially of at least one additive comprising a coalescent, with the additive being present in an amount of less than about 20% by weight, based on the total weight of the binder prepaint.

230. (previously presented) The set of premixed aqueous compositions of claim 220, wherein the premixed binder composition further consists essentially of at least one additive comprising a coalescent, with the additive being present in an amount of less than about 20% by weight, based on the total weight of the premixed binder composition.

231. (previously presented) A fluid white opacifying prepaint having a volume solids content of about 30% to about 70%, a PVC of about 35% to about 100%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU, useful for formulating a one pack, pigmented latex paint containing other paint ingredients, which prepaint consists essentially of:

- (i) at least one opacifying pigment,
- (ii) at least one dispersant,
- (iii) at least one thickener,
- (iv) at least one film-forming or non-film-forming polymer, and
- (v) water; wherein the dispersant(s), the thickener(s), and the polymer(s) are compatible with the pigment(s) and with the other paint ingredients and wherein the prepaint is stable to sedimentation.

232. (previously presented) A premixed aqueous pigment composition having a volume solids content of about 30% to about 70%, a PVC of about 35% to about 100%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU, useful for formulating a one pack, pigmented aqueous paint product containing other paint ingredients, which premixed aqueous composition consists essentially of:

- (i) at least one opacifying pigment,
- (ii) at least one dispersant,
- (iii) at least one thickener,
- (iv) at least one film-forming or non-film-forming resin, and
- (v) water; wherein the dispersant(s), the thickener(s), and the polymer(s) are compatible with the pigment(s) and with the other premixed aqueous composition ingredients and wherein the premixed aqueous composition is stable to sedimentation.

233. (previously presented) The prepaint of claim 231, wherein the volume solids content is about 35% to about 50%, the PVC is about 50 to about 100%, and the Stormer viscosity is about 60 to about 150 KU.

234. (previously presented) The premixed composition of claim 232, wherein the volume solids content is about 35% to about 50%, the PVC is about 50 to about 100%, and the Stormer viscosity is about 60 to about 150 KU.

235. (previously presented) The prepaint of claim 231, wherein the polymer is adsorbed onto the opacifying pigment.

236. (previously presented) The premixed resin composition of claim 232, wherein the resin is adsorbed onto the opacifying pigment.

237. (previously presented) The prepaint of claim 231, wherein the opacifying pigment comprises titanium dioxide.

238. (previously presented) The premixed composition of claim 232, wherein the opacifying pigment comprises titanium dioxide.

239. (previously presented) The prepaint of claim 231, wherein the dispersant comprises potassium tripolyphosphate.

240. (previously presented) The premixed composition of claim 232, wherein the dispersant comprises potassium tripolyphosphate.

241. (previously presented) The prepaint of claim 231, wherein the thickener comprises a cellulosic.

242. (previously presented) The premixed composition of claim 232, wherein the thickener comprises a cellulosic.

243. (previously presented) The prepaint of claim 231, wherein the polymer comprises an acrylic polymer.

244. (previously presented) The premixed composition of claim 232, wherein the resin comprises an acrylic resin.

245. (previously presented) The prepaint of claim 231, further consisting essentially of at least one additive comprising a coalescent, with the additive being present in an amount of less than about 10% by weight, based on the total weight of the prepaint.

246. (previously presented) The premixed composition of claim 232, further consisting essentially of at least one additive comprising a coalescent, with the additive being present in an amount of less than about 10% by weight, based on the total weight of the premixed composition.

247. (previously presented) A set of two different, but mutually compatible fluid prepaints useful for formulating a latex paint, which set comprises:

- (a) the opacifying prepaint of claim 231; and
- (b) a latex polymeric binder prepaint having volume solids content of about 25% to about 70% or a Brookfield viscosity of less than about 100,000 centipoise at a shear rate of 1.25 reciprocal seconds, which binder prepaint consists essentially of a water-borne latex polymeric binder having a Tg of about -430 degrees C. to about 70 degrees C. and water;

wherein the prepaint ingredients are mutually compatible with each other and with the ingredients of the other prepaint in the set.

248. (previously presented) A set of two different, but mutually compatible premixed aqueous compositions useful for formulating a paint composition, which set comprises:

- (a) the premixed pigment composition of claim 232; and
- (b) a premixed polymeric binder composition having volume solids content of about 25% to about 70% or a Brookfield viscosity of less than about 100,000 centipoise at a shear rate of 1.25 reciprocal seconds, which premixed binder composition consists essentially of a water-borne resin containing binder having a Tg of about -430 degrees C. to about 70 degrees C. and water;

wherein the ingredients of the premixed compositions are mutually compatible with each other and with the ingredients of the other premixed compositions in the set.

249. (previously presented) The set of prepaints of claim 247, wherein the binder prepaint has a volume solids content of about 30 to about 65% and a Brookfield viscosity of about 100 to about 50,000 centipoise at a shear rate of 1.25 reciprocal seconds, and consists essentially of a water-borne polymeric binder having a Tg of about -10 to about 60 degrees C.

250. (previously presented) The set of premixed compositions of claim 248, wherein the premixed binder composition has a volume solids content of about 30 to about 65% and a Brookfield viscosity of about 100 to about 50,000 centipoise at a shear rate of 1.25 reciprocal seconds, and consists essentially of a water-borne resin containing binder having a Tg of about -10 to about 60 degrees C.

251. (previously presented) The set of prepaints of claim 247, wherein the binder prepaint further consists essentially of at least one additive comprising a coalescent, the additive being present in an amount of less than about 10% by weight, based on the total weight of the binder prepaint.

252. (previously presented) The set of premixed compositions of claim 248, wherein the premixed binder composition further consists essentially of at least one additive comprising a coalescent, the additive being present in an amount of less than about 10% by weight, based on the total weight of the premixed binder composition.

253. (previously presented) A set of three different, but mutually compatible, fluid prepaints, useful for formulating a latex paint, which set comprises:

- (a) the set of prepaints of claim 247; and
- (b) a fluid pigment extender prepaint which consists essentially of:
 - (i) at least one mineral extender,
 - (ii) at least one thickener,
 - (iii) water, and
 - (iv) optionally a polymeric binder;

wherein the binder prepaint has a volume solids content of about 30% to about 70%, a PVC of about 35% to about 100%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU.

254. (previously presented) A set of three different, but mutually compatible, premixed aqueous compositions, useful for formulating a paint product, which set comprises:

- (a) the set of premixed compositions of claim 248; and
- (b) a premixed aqueous pigment extender composition which consists essentially of:
 - (i) at least calcined clay,
 - (ii) at least one thickener,
 - (iii) water, and
 - (iv) optionally a resin containing binder;

wherein the premixed binder composition has a volume solids content of about 30% to about 70%, a PVC of about 35% to about 100%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU.

255. (previously presented) The set of prepaints of claim 253, wherein the extender prepaint has a volume solids content of about 35% to about 65%, a PVC of about 40% to about 100% and a Stormer viscosity of about 60 to about 150 KU.

256. (previously presented) The set of premixed aqueous compositions of claim 254, wherein the premixed extender composition has a volume solids content of about 35% to about 65%, a PVC of about 40% to about 100% and a Stormer viscosity of about 60 to about 150 KU.

257. (previously presented) The set of prepaints of claim 247, wherein the binder prepaint further consists essentially of at least one additive comprising a coalescent, with the additive being present in an amount of less than about 20% by weight, based on the total weight of the binder prepaint.

258. (previously presented) The set of premixed aqueous compositions of claim 248, wherein the premixed binder composition further consists essentially of at least one additive comprising a coalescent, with the additive being present in an amount of less than about 20% by weight, based on the total weight of the premixed binder composition.

COUNT 4 (A Pigment Extender Prepaint Composition)

259. (previously presented) A fluid pigment extender prepaint, useful for formulating a one pack, pigmented latex paint containing other paint ingredients, which prepaint consists essentially of:

- (i) at least one mineral extender having a volume solids content of about 30% to about 70%, a PVC of about 35% to about 100%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU;
- (ii) at least one thickener,
- (iii) water, and
- (iv) an optional polymeric binder; wherein the prepaint ingredients are compatible with each other and with the ingredients of the paint.

260. (previously presented) A premixed aqueous pigment extender composition, useful for producing a pigmented aqueous paint product containing other paint ingredients, which premixed composition consists essentially of:

- (i) at least one calcined clay having a volume solids content of about 30% to about 70%, a PVC of about 35% to about 100%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU;
- (ii) at least one thickener,
- (iii) water, and
- (iv) an optional polymeric resin containing binder; wherein the premixed composition ingredients are compatible with each other and with the ingredients of the paint product.

COUNT 1 - (Product –Prepaints and Paint Composition)

261. (previously presented) A plurality of premixed aqueous compositions for forming an aqueous paint composition, the plurality of compositions comprising:

a premixed pigment composition provided as an aqueous solution having an opacifying pigment;

a premixed low resin composition provided as an aqueous solution having a flattening agent; and

a premixed a binder composition provided as an aqueous solution having a resin;

wherein mixing a portion of the pigment composition with a portion of at least one of the low resin composition and the binder composition produces the aqueous paint composition from the premixed compositions.

262. (previously presented) The plurality of premixed aqueous compositions of claim 261, wherein the number of premixed compositions is 3 or more.

263. (previously presented) The plurality of premixed aqueous compositions of claim 261, wherein the premixed pigment composition further comprises at least one resin adsorbed onto the opacifying pigment.

264. (previously presented) The plurality of premixed aqueous compositions of claim 261, wherein the premixed low resin composition further comprises at least one particulate resin absorbed onto the flattening agent.

265. (previously presented) The plurality of premixed aqueous compositions of claim 261, wherein the premixed low resin composition has a PVC of about 35% to about 100%.

266. (previously presented) An aqueous paint product made by a method comprising:
premixing an pigment composition as an aqueous solution having an opacifying pigment;
premixing a low resin composition as an aqueous solution having a flattening agent;
premixing a binder composition as an aqueous solution having a resin; and
mixing a portion of the pigment composition with a portion of at least one of the low resin composition and the binder composition to produce an aqueous paint composition from the premixed compositions.

267. (previously presented) An aqueous paint composition comprising:
a premixed pigment composition as an aqueous solution having an opacifying pigment;
a premixed low resin composition as an aqueous solution having a flattening agent;
a premixed binder composition as an aqueous solution having a resin; and
a portion of the pigment composition mixed with a portion of at least one of the low resin composition and the binder composition to produce the aqueous paint composition from the premixed compositions.

268. (previously presented) A method of forming a plurality of paint products, which method comprises the steps of:

- (a) providing a plurality of the premixed compositions of claim 267; and
- (b) dispensing a predetermined amount of each of the premixed compositions into containers to form the plurality of paint products.

COUNT 2 (Method of Producing a Paint Line)

269. (previously presented) A method of producing a plurality of aqueous paint products, the method comprising:

 premixing an opacifying pigment composition as an aqueous solution having an opacifying pigment;

 premixing a low resin composition as an aqueous solution having a flattening agent;

 premixing a binder composition as an aqueous solution having a resin; and

mixing a portion of the pigment composition with a portion of at least one of the low resin composition and the binder composition in containers to produce an aqueous paint product of the plurality of paint products from the premixed compositions.

270. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, further comprising the step of mixing the premixed compositions before, while, or after they are dispensed into the containers.

271. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, further comprising the step of mixing the premixed compositions before or while they are dispensed into the containers.

272. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, further comprising the step of adjusting the viscosity of the premixed compositions before, while, or after they are dispensed into the containers.

273. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, further comprising the step of adjusting the viscosity of the premixed compositions before or while they are dispensed into the containers.

274. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, further comprising the step of adding at least one additive that enhances application or final performance of the aqueous paint product.

275. (previously presented) The method of claim 274, wherein the additive is a thickener.

276. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, further comprising the step of adding at least one colorant to the premixed compositions.

277. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, wherein the opacifying pigment composition further comprises at least one resin absorbed onto the opacifying pigment.

278. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, wherein the low resin composition further comprises at least one resin absorbed onto the flattening agent.

279. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, wherein the method is carried out at a paint manufacturing facility.

280. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, wherein the number of premixed compositions is 4 or more.

281. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, wherein the low resin composition has a PVC of about 35% to about 100%.

282. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, wherein the method is carried out at the point-of-sale.

283. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, wherein the method is carried out at the point-of-use.

284. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, wherein the method is controlled by a computer.

285. (previously presented) A method of producing variations of a plurality of aqueous paint products, the method comprising:

- (i) premixing an opacifying pigment composition as an aqueous solution having an opacifying pigment;
- (ii) premixing a low resin composition as an aqueous solution having a flattening agent;
- (iii) premixing a binder composition as an aqueous solution having a resin; and
- (iv) premixing an additional different premixed composition from the group consisting of the compositions of (i), (ii), and (iii); and

mixing a portion of the pigment composition with a portion of at least one of the low resin composition and the binder composition in containers to produce an aqueous paint product of the variations of the plurality of paint products from the premixed compositions.

286. (previously presented) The method of claim 285, further comprising the step of mixing the premixed compositions before, while, or after they are dispensed into the containers.

287. (previously presented) The method of claim 285, further comprising the step of mixing the premixed compositions before or while they are dispensed into the containers.

288. (previously presented) The method of claim 285, further comprising the step of adjusting the viscosity of the premixed compositions before, while, or after they are dispensed into the containers.

289. (previously presented) The method of claim 285, further comprising the step of adjusting the viscosity of the premixed compositions before or while they are dispensed into the containers.

290. (previously presented) The method of claim 285, further comprising the step of adding at least one additive that enhances application or final performance of the aqueous paint product.

291. (previously presented) The method of claim 290, wherein the additive is a thickener.

292. (previously presented) The method of claim 285, further comprising the step of adding at least one colorant to the premixed compositions.

293. (previously presented) The method of claim 285, wherein the opacifying pigment composition further comprises at least one resin absorbed onto the opacifying pigment.

294. (previously presented) The method of claim 285, wherein the low resin composition further comprises at least one resin absorbed onto the flattening agent.

295. (previously presented) The method of claim 285, wherein the method is carried out at a paint manufacturing facility.

296. (previously presented) The method of claim 285, wherein the number of premixed compositions is 4 or more.

297. (previously presented) The method of claim 285, wherein the low resin composition has a PVC of about 35% to about 100%.

298. (previously presented) The method of claim 285, wherein the method is carried out at the point-of-sale.

299. (previously presented) The method of claim 285, wherein the method is carried out at the point-of-use.

300. (previously presented) The method of claim 285, wherein the method is controlled by a computer.

COUNT 3 (A Pigmented Prepaint Composition)

301. (previously presented) A premixed aqueous composition for forming an aqueous paint product, the premixed composition comprising:

a premixed pigment composition provided as an aqueous solution having:

an opacifying pigment;

a dispersant-thickener comprising:

a dispersant,

a thickener; and

water;

wherein mixing a portion of the pigment composition with other paint ingredients provides the aqueous paint composition.

302. (previously presented) The premixed aqueous composition of claim 301, wherein the volume solids content is about 35% to about 50% and the Stormer viscosity is about 60 to about 150 KU.

303. (previously presented) The premixed aqueous composition of claim 301, wherein the opacifying pigment comprises titanium dioxide.

304. (previously presented) The premixed aqueous composition of claim 301, wherein the dispersant comprises potassium tripolyphosphate.

305. (previously presented) The premixed aqueous composition of claim 301, wherein the thickener comprises a cellulosic.

306. (previously presented) The premixed aqueous composition of claim 301, further consisting essentially of at least one additive comprising a coalescent, with the additive being present in an amount of less than about 10% by weight, based on the total weight of the premixed aqueous composition.

307. (previously presented) A plurality of different, but mutually compatible premixed aqueous compositions useful for formulating a paint product, which plurality comprises:

- (a) the premixed opacifying aqueous composition of claim 301; and
- (b) a premixed binder composition having volume solids content of about 25% to about 70% or a Brookfield viscosity of less than about 100,000 centipoise at a shear rate of 1.25 reciprocal seconds, which binder composition consists essentially of a water-borne resin having a Tg of about -430 degrees C. to about 70 degrees C. and water;

wherein the ingredients of the premixed compositions are mutually compatible with each other and with the ingredients of the other premixed compositions of the plurality.

308. (previously presented) The set of premixed aqueous compositions of claim 307, wherein the premixed binder composition has a volume solids content of about 30 to about 65% and a Brookfield viscosity of about 100 to about 50,000 centipoise at a shear rate of 1.25 reciprocal seconds, and consists essentially of a water-borne resin having a Tg of about -10 to about 60 degrees C.

309. (previously presented) The set of premixed fluid compositions of claim 307, wherein the premixed binder composition further consists essentially of at least one additive comprising a coalescent, the additive being present in an amount of less than about 10% by weight, based on the total weight of the premixed binder composition.

310. (previously presented) A plurality of different, but mutually compatible, premixed compositions, useful for formulating a paint product, which plurality comprises:

- (a) the plurality of premixed fluid compositions of claim 307; and
- (b) a premixed aqueous pigment extender composition which consists essentially of:
 - (i) at least one flattening agent,
 - (ii) at least one thickener,
 - (iii) water, and
 - (iv) optionally a resin;

wherein the premixed extender composition has a volume solids content of about 30% to about 70%, a PVC of about 35% to about 100%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU.

311. (previously presented) The plurality of premixed compositions of claim 310, wherein the premixed extender composition has a volume solids content of about 35% to about 65%, a PVC of about 40% to about 100% and a Stormer viscosity of about 60 to about 150 KU.

312. (previously presented) The plurality of premixed compositions of claim 307, wherein the premixed binder composition further consists essentially of at least one additive comprising a coalescent, with the additive being present in an amount of less than about 20% by weight, based on the total weight of the binder composition.

313. (previously presented) A premixed aqueous pigment paint composition having a volume solids content of about 30% to about 70%, a PVC of about 35% to about 100%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU, useful for formulating an aqueous pigmented paint product containing other paint ingredients, the premixed pigment composition provided as an aqueous solution comprising:

a pigment;

a dispersant-thickener comprising:

a dispersant, and

a thickener;

a resin, and

water;

wherein mixing a portion of the pigment composition with the other paint ingredients provides the aqueous paint product.

314. (previously presented) The premixed aqueous composition of claim 313, wherein the volume solids content is about 35% to about 50%, the PVC is about 50 to about 100%, and the Stormer viscosity is about 60 to about 150 KU.

315. (previously presented) The premixed aqueous composition of claim 313, wherein the resin is adsorbed onto the pigment.

316. (previously presented) The premixed aqueous composition of claim 313, wherein the pigment comprises titanium dioxide.

317. (previously presented) The premixed aqueous composition of claim 313, wherein the dispersant comprises potassium triphosphate.

318. (previously presented) The premixed aqueous composition of claim 313, wherein the thickener comprises a cellulosic.

319. (previously presented) The premixed aqueous composition of claim 313, wherein the resin comprises acrylics.

320. (previously presented) The premixed aqueous composition of claim 313, further consisting essentially of at least one additive comprising a coalescent, with the additive being present in an amount of less than about 10% by weight, based on the total weight of the premixed aqueous composition.

321. (previously presented) A plurality of different, but mutually compatible premixed aqueous compositions useful for formulating a paint product, which plurality comprises:

- (a) the premixed aqueous composition of claim 313; and
- (b) a premixed binder composition having volume solids content of about 25% to about 70% or a Brookfield viscosity of less than about 100,000 centipoise at a shear rate of 1.25 reciprocal seconds, which binder composition consists essentially of a water-borne resin having a Tg of about -430 degrees C. to about 70 degrees C. and water;

wherein the ingredients of the premixed compositions are mutually compatible with each other and with the ingredients of the other premixed compositions in the plurality.

322. (previously presented) The plurality of premixed aqueous compositions of claim 321, wherein the premixed binder composition has a volume solids content of about 30 to about 65% and a Brookfield viscosity of about 100 to about 50,000 centipoise at a shear rate of 1.25 reciprocal seconds, and consists essentially of a water-borne resin having a Tg of about -10 to about 60 degrees C.

323. (previously presented) The plurality of premixed aqueous compositions of claim 322, wherein the premixed binder composition further consists essentially of at least one additive comprising a coalescent, the additive being present in an amount of less than about 10% by weight, based on the total weight of the premixed binder composition.

324. (previously presented) A plurality of different, but mutually compatible, premixed aqueous compositions, useful for formulating an aqueous paint product, which plurality comprises:

- (a) the plurality of premixed aqueous compositions of claim 322; and
- (b) a premixed aqueous pigment extender composition which consists essentially of:
 - (i) at least one flattening agent,
 - (ii) at least one thickener,
 - (iii) water, and
 - (iv) optionally a resin;

wherein the premixed binder composition has a volume solids content of about 30% to about 70%, a PVC of about 35% to about 100%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU.

325. (previously presented) The plurality of premixed aqueous compositions of claim 324, wherein the premixed extender composition has a volume solids content of about 35% to about 65%, a PVC of about 40% to about 100% and a Stormer viscosity of about 60 to about 150 KU.

326. (previously presented) The plurality of premixed aqueous compositions of claim 321, wherein the premixed binder composition further consists essentially of at least one additive comprising a coalescent, with the additive being present in an amount of less than about 20% by weight, based on the total weight of the premixed binder composition.

COUNT 4 (A Pigment Extender Prepaint Composition)

327. (previously presented) An aqueous solution having a premixed pigment extender composition, useful for producing a paint product containing other premixed compositions, the aqueous solution comprising:

- (i) a flattening agent;
- (ii) a dispersant thickening dilutant composition having a thickener,
- (iii) water, and
- (iv) optionally a resin; wherein the premixed extender composition ingredients are compatible with each other.